

Tiverton Open Space Commission
Minutes of March 15, 2010 meeting
Essex Library, Highland Road

Present: Ginger Lacy (co-chair), Brian Janes (co-chair), Martin Van Hof, Phil Schuyler, Dick Bixby, Gayle Lawrence, Susan Anderson, Garry Plunkett

The meeting was called to order by Lacy at 7:05 PM.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- The February minutes were accepted as corrected.
- The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented. Bixby will recheck the February Conveyance Fund amounts with the Tiverton Treasurer's Office.
- June 5 Trails Day: we decided not to do anything special to promote this event due to the existing accelerated use of Weetamoo Woods trails.

TRAILS & HABITAT

- Fort Barton: Schuyler reported that trails on the wet side are 6"-8" deep in water. We may have to put something there. Bridge repairs are needed on the back bridge. The Roger Williams University students could stain the tower during their community service day in August.
 - Viking Stone (VS): Plunkett received an email from the Town Administrator stating VS wanted to pump onto Fort Barton property; the DEM wanted to know what TOSC thought about it. VS had already started pumping. The original plan for VS was to build five detention ponds to stop any overflows onto Fish Road. They have only built 1½ detention ponds to date. DEM said they had visited the site and did not see silt from the quarry operation in the pumped water, so they felt it could be a short term solution during periods of heavy rain until the detention system is completed. Plunkett said that periodic pumping could be monitored for erosion and siltation. Given the Town's liability if the owner abandoned the property, they were trying to keep him in business so he could complete the flood control system. Van Hof suggested TOSC write a letter to the Town Administrator stating VS should not be pumping regularly onto Fort Barton land. Lawrence made a motion to write the letter, which was seconded and approved unanimously. Schuyler suggested VS put a diffuser on the end of the pump to disperse it into the woods to prevent erosion.
- Weetamoo Woods: Plunkett reported that a hemlock that had fallen across the Green Trail has been cut away. An oak tree has been cleared off the Red Trail. Spring haying has been done in the meadow. We need to brush hog along the walls in the meadow and along the south end of the meadow that was not hayed. The Eight Rod Way up to Borden Brook also needs to be brush hogged. A motion was made by Plunkett, which was seconded and approved unanimously to complete this work.

EDUCATION & GRANTS

- Lawrence reported that a Small Trails Grant for the Weetamoo Woods parking lot has been approved up to \$3000 for 80% of the cost of the project. It expires February 2011. The RI Trails Advisory Committee will reimburse our expenses.
- Wild Birds of Weetamoo by Geoff Dennis will be presented April 25 at 2 PM at the Town Hall. Lacy is making posters. Posters are needed at Audubon and Ruecker's.

- Land & Water Conference will be held March 27 at URI. Lawrence, Plunkett, Lacy and Anderson are attending.
- Historic Preservation Conference will be held April 24 in Little Compton.

PROPERTIES REVIEW

- Bixby discussed a request from a private land owner abutting open space property to endorse his CRMC application for a trail. TOSC will recommend the Town Administrator not to support the request. This is consistent with our policy not to allow private trails on town-owned open space land.
- Motion made and carried to make the annual installment to DEM revolving loan fund of \$62,500.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next meeting will be Monday, April 19, 2010 at the Library.

Submitted by Susan Anderson